

2009

Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department

Baseball Program By-Laws

Ages 9 – 14



Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department

Youth Baseball 2009

Local Rules and Regulations (Revised 10/2008)

MITES (9 - 10) MIDGETS (11 – 12) JUNIORS (13 – 14)

The Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department Baseball program will not be affiliated with any national program this season

Philosophy:

The philosophy of the Athletics Section of the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department is to create a positive environment for youth and adults.

- By emphasizing each individual's right to participate.
- By teaching life skills, good sportsmanship and game fundamentals.
- By stressing FUN and enjoyment above all else.

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for youth ages 9-14 to play baseball on organized teams in a structured program emphasizing safety, correct fundamental skills, teamwork, good sportsmanship and fair play.

In local play, these rules and regulations supersede any other rules and regulations.

1. PROCEDURE FOR ADDRESSING CONCERNS

The Baseball Director is happy to address any concerns expressed by parents, coaches and players. However, complaints from anonymous sources are not acceptable. Complaints against coaches or players must be in writing and signed by the complainant. Any parent or coach lodging a complaint of the legality of a player must present a written documentation and be willing to appear before the Baseball Commissioners as the complainant.

2. BASEBALL COMMISSIONERS

Governing Body made up of the Athletics staff and members of the Athletic Advisory Board.

The Governing Body shall meet for such purposes as:

- a. Disciplinary action taken against coaches
- b. Player, Parent, Coach disputes
- c. Recommendations for local regulations
- d. Any other issues as deemed necessary by the Baseball Director

It is the Athletic Director's right as Administrator to screen what is placed before the Board for action.

All Board decisions are final.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE

The Baseball Director shall have:

- a. Exclusive rights to scheduling
- b. First Right to Suspension of Coaches
- c. Approval of facility use

4. TEAMS AND LEAGUES

- a. A minimum of four and not more than ten teams will comprise a League.
- b. The Baseball Director and the Athletic Director may determine league set-up and team boundaries within the Corporate Boundary annually.
- c. **Final permanent playing roster will consist of a minimum of 12 players and no maximum.**

All ages are based on April 30 of the playing year.

Midget and Junior teams should hold tryouts and select the best 11, 12 and 13, 14 year old players.

- d. **During regular season games, no Midget or Junior team shall have more than eight (8) of their older age players on the field at one time.**
- e. All registration forms with attached birth certificates must be turned in to the Baseball Director at the time appointed by him/her. **IF A COACH DOES NOT SEE FIT TO TURN IN HIS/HER REGISTRATION CARD ALONG WITH BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND ALLOWS THAT PLAYER TO PARTICIPATE, ANY GAME HE/SHE PARTICIPATES IN THAT IS PROTESTED WILL BE DECLARED A FORFEIT.**

*ANY TEAM FOUND NOT TURNING IN THEIR
REQUIRED REGISTRATION CARDS AND BIRTH
CERTIFICATES ARE **NOT ELIGIBLE** FOR THE PLAY-
OFFS.*

THIS IS THE COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY:
NOTIFY PARENTS UPON REGISTRATION
A BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED.

- f. Final rosters must be on file by **May 1, 2009**.
- g. Any player *moving into town* into the Youth Baseball boundary after final rosters have been filed may be placed on a roster at the direction of the Baseball Director.
- h. Should a team lose one of its players on a final roster during the playing season due to:
 - (1) Player moves out of town
 - (2) Prolonged sickness or injury which incapacitates the player for the remainder of the season
 - (3) Summer school requirement

Head Coach may request in writing to replace player.
Baseball Director must approve such request.

5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Greensboro Parks and Recreation operates on a corporate boundary concept; within that corporate boundary, a player should sign up according to the site closest to his/her address. If more than one registration site is of equal distance to the player's address, it is the

player's choice. (**Half (1/2) a mile will be used as the distance of determination.**) If a registration site is as much as ½ mile closer, the player is expected to register at that site.

NOTE: Practice sites may differ from registration sites due to availability.

If there is a dispute over the player's address or it is believed that a false address is being given, the Director of Baseball will use the address given to the school the player attends in order to determine the correct team the player should be placed on.

An eligible player must meet the following:

- Age requirement
- Boundary requirement

6. DUAL PARTICIPATE

A player must return as a 10, 12, or 14 year-old to be on the same team. Exception is if the player moves after the first season he plays with a team. The player who moves on or before registration must play for the team assigned nearest his new home address.

Dual participation is allowed under the following stipulations:

Coaches are expected to ask players for commitment to this program. Coaches should keep in mind that pitchers pitching in more than one program are at risk of injury and their innings in another program needs to be taken into consideration. Coaches must understand that if players choose to participate with their other team it will not constitute the Director changing a scheduled game.

7. RELEASES

Any player who plays on a “release” as an 11 or 13 year-old must return to the same team as a 12 or 14 year-old; players are expected to play for two years with the same team as a Mite, Midget or Junior player. **Only exception is if player moves.**

In 2009 in order for a player to obtain a release, his parents must adhere to the following process:

Release Process as of 2009

- The parent/guardian must obtain from the Baseball Director, a numbered “Release Form.” The “Release Form” must be dated and signed by the Baseball Director, Coach of team from which the player is being released and Coach of team the participant will play for. The “Release Form” must then be returned to the Baseball Director be attached to the participant’s Registration Form.
- If an area Coach refuses to sign a release form, the parent has the right to appeal to the Board comprised of the Baseball Director, Athletics Director, and members of the Athletic Advisory Board by calling Don Tilley at 373-2955. **All appeals must be asked for before 5:00 pm on Friday, April 17, 2009.** The issue will be looked at keeping in mind that the best interests of the Player must be served. This Decision Will Be Final.
- Any Coach who allows a player to participate without following the above process will be **SUSPENDED FOR SIX (6) CONSECUTIVE GAMES.**
- a. Cuts – A player who is cut from a team must have the coach sign his registration card with day and date that

he has been “cut.” The card then needs to be returned to the Baseball Director who then will place the player with a team that needs players.

Mustang (9-10) players cannot be cut.

If a player is released, cut as a Midget player, he must return to his correct neighborhood assignment as a Junior player.

8. LEGAL PLAYERS

- a. Any player residing in Guilford County, or an *adjacent County with the exception of residents of the City of Jamestown, City of High Point and the Northwest Association area are eligible to play in Greensboro’s League.

*Players from adjacent counties may play in the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department’s Baseball Program with the following stipulations: ***See Below**

- All players will be assigned to a team by the Baseball Director.
- b. Mite players who are 9 or 10 years of age April 30 (playing season).
- c. Midget players who are 11 or 12 years of age April 30 (playing season).
- d. Junior players who are 13 or 14 years of age April 30 (playing season)

9. ILLEGAL PLAYERS

- a. A player who does not meet the requirements of the League due to age or residence (not having a release form).
- b. It is the responsibility of the Coach to be certain his players are legal.** If he has reason to believe a player is illegal, he should contact the Baseball Director immediately. **Coaches using illegal players can be suspended from the program indefinitely.**

10. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- a. An ineligible player is one who is legally a member of the League, but, who is ineligible to play or pitch in a particular game or games because of limitations set forth in these rules and regulations or as the result of a previous rules violation or disciplinary action.
- b. A player shall not be considered in violation of these rules until after one pitch has been thrown after the point of violation.
- c. In the event a Coach refuses to remove the player from the lineup when the appeal is made and verified, the game is subject to be forfeited and the Coach suspended for two (2) games.

11. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

- a. Player Participation requirement:
 - *2 innings per game – Mites
 - *21 innings for Midgets – start in two (2) games during season
 - *25 innings for Juniors – start in two (2) games during season

Coaches, at their discretion, can subtract from the required innings if a player misses practice, games or is a disciplinary problem. A Coach should document the above in case inquiries are made.

If it is reported that a coach is not abiding by this rule, the Baseball Director will investigate. If the Coach is found to be in violation, the Baseball Director MAY, AT HIS/HER DISCRETION, choose to suspend the Coach, however, there must be written evidence to do so.

12. RULES OF THE GAME

Major League Baseball Rules will be used with the following exceptions. All head coaches will be given a copy of the Major League Rules.

Mite Batting Order – All players present at the start of the game must be in the batting order. Any player coming in late does not have to play.

Speed up rules are mandatory in all Mite, Midget and Juniors play. You must run for your catcher with two outs and may run for your pitcher or catcher at any time. You must pitch to a batter you wish to intentionally walk. All balk rules apply. Runner must be player not in game unless no other subs are available.

- a. Re-entry Rule: Any player in the starting lineup who has been removed for a substitute, may re-enter the game one time (this rule applies to starters only).
- b. Players shall return to the line-up in their original place in the batting order. While more than one substitute may be used in that position before the starting player is returned, no

substitutions shall be made that shall alter the original batting rotation of any of the starting or substitute players.

- c. Should a team use all their subs the last player removed from the game shall be noted and if a player becomes injured or ejected from the game that player is eligible to return to the game in his original spot in the order and the sub moves to the spot in the batting order that the player leaving the game filled.
- d. In Midget and Junior teams have the option to use a EH. If a team starts with 10 they may play down one player. If they do so they will take an **out** in the spot in the batting order that the player left the game.
- e. **For safety purposes, players should slide in order to avoid contact. Flagrant attempts by runners or unsportsmanlike behavior are a judgment call, which can result in ejection.**

Coaches should teach players to slide.

Mite Rules – No Balks.

CHANGE OF RULE IN (2007)

Mites

Any base runner leaving the base before the ball reaches home plate is out (umpire's decision). The ball is dead and all other runners return to base occupied prior to pitch. The pitch will not count. If a runner misses a base, it will be an appeal play to the umpire. (See Appeals and Protests.)

13. PITCHING

- a. Pitchers – Any team member may pitch subject to the restrictions of the pitching rule.
- b. Mite pitchers are allowed **(8) innings** per calendar week and **(3) innings** per day. Midget pitchers are allowed **(10) innings** per calendar week and **(7) innings** per day. Junior pitchers are allowed **(10) innings** per calendar week and **(7) innings** per day (Calendar week is from 12:01 Monday to 12:00 midnight the following Sunday). The 40 hour rest rule is computed from the scheduled starting time of the game in which the pitching occurred, or in the games which begin more than two hours after the scheduled starting time, the actual starting time of the game shall be used to interpret this rule.

If it is reported that a coach and player are in violation of this rule, both coach and player will be suspended for the next two (2) games.

The game in question must be replayed from the point that the pitcher was in violation.

- c. The 40 hour rest rule applies to local play.
- d. After throwing one pitch to a batter, the pitcher shall be considered as having pitched in one inning.
- e. Any pitcher withdrawn from the mound and lineup, or a pitcher who is withdrawn from the mound and stays in the game in another position, shall not be permitted to pitch again in the same game.

- f. Pitchers in violation of the pitching rules shall be declared ineligible.

14. **LENGTH OF GAMES**

- a. Regulation games – Midget and Mites – 6 innings,
Juniors – 7 innings
- b. When a game is tied at the end of regulation length, it shall go into extra innings until a decision is reached or the game is called by the umpire because of the time limit (1 hour, 45 minutes for Midget and 2 hours for Junior).
- c. A regulation game may consist of:

Mite – 6 innings – no new inning after 1 hour, 20 minutes. If a game is called for any reason, if four innings have been completed or if the home team has scored more runs in three innings, or three and a fraction innings than the visiting team has scored in four completed innings. *Five runs are allowed per inning for the first four (4) innings..*

- Mite – 1 hr., 20 minute time limit and 4 innings.
- Midget, 1 hr., 45 minute time limit and 5 innings.
- Junior, 2 hr., time limit and 5 innings.
- 10 run rule after 3 ½ or 4 in Mite and Midget depending on lead and home team.
- 10 run rule after 4 ½ or 5 in Juniors depending on lead and home team.
- Rain halts after 3 ½ or 4 in Midgets depending on lead and home team.
- Rain halts after 4 ½ or 5 in Juniors depending on lead and home team.

- d. If a game is called before completion or when the score is tied, it shall be considered a suspended game and is to be resumed from the point played. (This is at the discretion of the Baseball Director). Pitchers must still abide by eligibility requirements. Only the remaining time of the suspended game will be played (example – if there was 40 minutes remaining when the game was suspended, 40 minutes will be played to complete the game).
- e. It is the responsibility of the coaches and players, as well as the umpires, to see that games are completed within the specified time limit.

Rain-outs – If a 6:00 p.m. game is called off by the official, that does NOT mean the 8:00 p.m. game is called off. Officials and coaches are expected to get games in if at all possible!!!

15. SCHEDULES

- a. All regular season schedules, day, date and times will be determined by the Baseball Director. The Parks & Recreation staff will work with the coaches in order to furnish compatible schedules, however, ONCE SCHEDULES ARE GIVEN TO THE COACHES, THEY ARE EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE SCHEDULE – PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR GAMES TO BE RESCHEDULED. UMPIRES HAVE ALREADY BEEN BOOKED. *If you cannot play a scheduled game for any reason, you should call the opposing team coach and let him/her know in time to notify his/her team. Call the office (373-2955) so umpires will be notified.*

Parks & Recreation will be responsible for paying umpires for scheduled games and rained-out games ONLY.

- b. Pre-season games will be at the discretion of the coaches who must take full responsibility for any travel, etc.
- c. Regular game times shall be - Mites: 6:00/7:30; Midgets: 6:00 and 8:00; Juniors 6:00 and 8:15. Game time is forfeit time **with the exception of the 6:00 p.m. game – no game should be considered a forfeit before 6:10 p.m.**

The second game shall start no later than 15 minutes after completion of the first game.

- d. The umpire's watch is the official timepiece.

16. UMPIRES

- a. Greensboro Parks & Recreation will supply umpires for local League play and local tournament play.
- b. Umpires shall not smoke, chew tobacco, snuff, etc. during or between games.
- c. Any umpire who touches a coach or player in any way other than a friendly manner, or uses any type of profanity shall be investigated for possible suspension.
- d. Umpires shall be dressed in uniforms and be assigned by the local booking agent.

17. SCOREKEEPERS

- a. Greensboro Parks & Recreation will make every effort to supply scorekeepers. If one is not present due to unforeseen circumstances, the home team scorekeeper will be considered the official scorekeeper.

- b. If no scorekeeper is at your game, the winner should call the official scorekeepers line – 373-2633 – and give the result of the game.
- c. In order to have correct standings for play-offs, coaches need to abide by the above.

18. COACHES

- a. Coaches are expected to abide by all local rules and regulations.
- b. Any Coach applicant who the Baseball Director feels does not meet the appropriate standards needed may be refused a coaching position.
- c. Knowing that the City reserves the right to perform random national background investigations to assess the truthfulness of a coach, the following questions must be answered: (sheet provided by Baseball Director).

Have you ever been convicted of any of the following types of crimes: “possession or sale of illegal drugs”

“assault”

“sexual assault”

“robbery”

“burglary”

“crimes involving minors”

If yes, please explain. “False information regarding these questions will constitute the crime of perjury.”

19. COACHES AND RECRUITMENT

Recruitment in Youth Baseball is discouraged, therefore, the following rules are intended to help stop the promotion of recruitment.

- a. Only a Head Coach will be allowed to carry his/her son/daughter to another team in or outside his/her boundary. If the coach is not officially named Head Coach, his/her son must return to their appropriate area.
- b. Any Head Coach who gives his team to another Coach who brings his son/daughter as a player to that team will not be allowed to act as an assistant with the team.
- c. If a Head Coach gives his team to another Coach and there is no player involvement (new coach doesn't bring his/her son/daughter to play on the team), he may remain with the team as an assistant.

20. COACHES – VIOLATIONS RESULTING IN SUSPENSION

Administrators of this program, not coaches or parents, will determine the severity of punishment that coaches and players who violate the rules receive. Incidents will be investigated and considered individually; however, so that a coach understands the seriousness of his actions, the following policy for coaches will be in place for 2008.

THREE STRIKES YOU'RE OUT!!!

- a. Misconduct by a coach reported by an umpire, spectator, etc., and found by Administrators to be true will be given at least a WRITTEN WARNING and/or suspension of three games, but can include suspension from the program if the misconduct is serious enough.

- b. A second report of misconduct by a coach reported by an umpire, spectator, etc., and found by Administrators to be true, will result in at least SUSPENSION OF THREE GAMES, but can include suspension from the program if the misconduct is serious enough.
- c. A third report of misconduct by a coach reported by an umpire, spectator, etc., and found by Administrators to be true will result in SUSPENSION FROM THE PROGRAM.
- d. Coaches who are suspended from the program may meet with the athletic director and baseball director on reinstatement to the program

21. VIOLATIONS THAT SHOULD BE REPORTED

- a. Coaches making abusive remarks to members of his team or the opposing team.
- b. Coach who uses profanity in the dugout, in the presence of players.
- c. Coach who uses any form of tobacco while in the dugout.
- d. Coach who uses alcohol or drugs while on the bench or playing field.
- e. Coach who goes on the playing field to protest an umpire's decision.
- f. Coach who touches an umpire in an "unfriendly manner."
- g. Coaches and players must remain in their designated dugout area, subject to the removal of the pitcher from the mound.

(Failure of the umpire to call this does not constitute a protest; however, it does require such change as soon as he/she discovers this violation. Exception – injury – time called by opposing coach or umpire – then you must be back within your prescribed area at the time of the opposing manager completes their time-out.

- h. Coaches are expected to control their players. Any player arguing with an umpire should be asked to leave the playing field.
- i. Any Coach that touches a player on the opposing team in an abusive manner.
- j. Any Coach or Parent who approaches an official after the game in an unfriendly manner.
- k. Coaches who are recruiting players out of their area.

22. VIOLATIONS BY PLAYERS

Any player thrown out by an umpire should be reported to the Baseball Director the next working day by calling 373-2955 with the following information: Team Name, Coach's name, Player's name, date, time and person who is reporting the incident.

Chanting or taunting by players shall not be allowed (examples, yelling, hey “batter” batter” or “we’ll take you to the river”). In this day and time, this is an open invitation to violence.

THREE STRIKES YOU'RE OUT

The following policy for misconduct of a team or player will be:

1. Misconduct of a Team or Player: A WRITTEN WARNING at least and/or suspension of three games, but can

include suspension from the program if the misconduct is serious enough.

2. Second Report of Misconduct:

For Team: FORFEITURE OF NEXT THREE GAMES

For Player: SUSPENSION OF NEXT THREE GAMES, but can include suspension from the program if misconduct is serious enough.

3. Third Report of Misconduct: PLAYER AND/OR TEAM SUSPENDED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON.

4. Players suspended from the program may meet with the athletic director and baseball director about reinstatement to the program.

23. EQUIPMENT CONSIDERED ILLEGAL FOR LOCAL PLAY

MITE/MIDGET

1. Metal cleats
2. Improper headgear

JUNIOR

1. Improper headgear

NOTE: Metal cleats are allowed for **Junior Age only** due to the fact that they are allowed in school ball.

24. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- a, Rubber Cleats for MIDGET ONLY.
- b. Face Masks for Mites, Midgets and Juniors. Any player coming to bat without a face mask is an automatic out.**

c. Catchers are required to wear a cup-type athletic supporter, mask with throat guard, chest protector, shin guards and protective headgear which gives protection to the top of the head when catching behind the plate. Any player serving as a catcher to warm up a pitcher shall wear a mask, whether the pitcher is warming up from the mound, in the bullpen or elsewhere.

d. Proper uniforms – shirt, pants, cap, socks.

25. PROTESTS

Any Head Coach who feels he has a valid protest must notify the Umpire-in-Chief, who will notify the opposing Head Coach and Official Scorer that the game is being played “Under Protest.” **All protests must be made at the time of occurrence.**

All protests must be made in writing within 24 hours, accompanied by a \$25.00 Protest Fee. The fee will be refunded if the protest is won; if lost, the fee will be deposited into the Baseball Account.

The Baseball Director will rule on all protests within five (5) working days.

26. CITY PLAY-OFFS

All teams will qualify for the City Playoffs. All teams that finish 500 or better will be placed in the “A” Bracket and all teams 500 or less will be in the “B” Bracket and separate single eliminations tournaments will be held to crown both an “A” and “B” bracket champion.

27. FEES AND SPONSORS

This program has relied on sponsorships for teams for over forty years. Sponsors enable players to play baseball at no charge or very little expense. However, if the Baseball Director or the Coach is unable to solicit a sponsor, participants will be charged a minimal fee to cover entry fees and equipment.

2009 Team Fees

7-8 year old program \$100.00 per team
9-10 year old program \$225.00 per team
11-12 year old program \$275.00 per team
13-14 year old program \$325.00 per team

NOTES
